



THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 42

DECEMBER, 1988

A Word From Our Chairman

The Grange was very popular in the summer, and an average of 150 visitors came to the house every day. The volunteers and "summer only" volunteers were very busy, and some came in twice a week. I want to thank you all, for your enthusiasm, commitment and hard work.

Our Christmas party for all Grange volunteers will be on Tuesday, December 6th, from 5:30 - 8:00 pm. in the Music Room. A light supper, and wine, will be served, and then Margaret Machell and Peter Stokes will entertain us with stories of their trials and tribulations before, during and after, the restoration of The Grange.

I hope that everyone will be able to come, and enjoy the evening.

Ruth Keene was ill and on sick leave all summer, and she was sorely missed by the volunteers and visitors alike. Everyone is pleased that she is now well and back in the bake room.

Vera Coombs was married on August 13th and she is now Mrs. Gordon Edmund. Best wishes to them both.

Penny Goldie had a 10 lb. 6 oz. son, Ian Goldie Bethune, at the end of August. We miss her on Mondays, and the ironing that she always did is piling up! Congratulations, Penny and Brian.

Heather McDorman has been a Sunday volunteer for 5 years, and the Day Captain for 4 of those years. She has been a hardworking, knowledgeable stalwart volunteer and day captain. Unfortunately, she is resigning in December, as she is moving out of Toronto. Heather, thank you for your dedication, time and enthusiasm - we will all miss you.

I would like to welcome the following new volunteers:

Adele Blady, Carla Chow, Jean Crosbie, Dinah Draper, Grace Filion, Pat House, Pat McGlad, Helen Nicholl, Louise Patterson, Mona Rankin. I hope that you all will enjoy working in The Grange, and stay for a long time.

Dorothy Brown, who not only does the statistics in the office on Tuesdays, also makes dolls for sale in The Grange Shop. This year the doll "Emily Louisa" for The Grange raffle has been made by Dorothy. She paints the dolls' hands and faces, fires them in a kiln, attaches the hair, designs and makes all the clothes.

Dorothy has been having a lot of trouble with one eye, has recently been hospitalized, and soon will have a cornea transplant. We all wish you a speedy and successful recovery, Dorothy.

The Kettledrum Committee consists of Nancy Lofft, Claire Miller, Jane Carruthers and Julie Gray. They are ably assisted by the Housekeeping Committee - Virginia

THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

Smith, Ethel Irwin, Priscilla Morley and Eleanor Hamilton. Since September they have prepared the delicious suppers before our training sessions; a tea party for Prof. Kilbourn after The Grange Annual Lecture; a book-launch reception; and a reception for the Curators' Circle, and 2 dinner parties; and a reception for 4 Russian Museum Curators. Elizabeth Chish stopped cooking, came out of the kitchen and Welcomed them in Russian. Ruth Keene, baking bread, was also a great hit.

Katharine Lochnan had a dinner party in the Music Room after the Holbein Drawings exhibition opening. She requested a Medieaval dinner, and this is the menu:

Mushroom Pasties
Egurdouce
Barley Casserole
Turnips with Chestnuts
Syllabub
Red & white wine, tea, coffee

Here are two thank-you letters:-

My thanks and congratulations to our Grange Volunteers for their contribution to the success of the Russian Delegations' visit to Toronto.

I am really pleased that our guests had the opportunity to enjoy the charming hospitality of The Grange.

(signed) William J. Withrow,
Director, AGO.

Dear Ruth,

It was very good to meet you during my visit to the Art Gallery of Ontario. Very many thanks for the delicious two loaves of bread and the lovely jar of inarmalade which you very kindly gave me. My wife and children and myself have been eating them with great pleasure. Your oven and fire at The Grange obviously help you to do a marvellous job of baking and making!

Many thanks also for the delicious dinner which you gave us last Thursday evening. It was a superb way to finish off the evening of the opening of the Holbein Exhibition.

(signed) Oliver Everett, Librarian,
Windsor Castle, Berkshire.

Connie Masters and Jane Aitken attended a meeting of The Metropolitan Toronto Heritage Group, at Gibson House on September 13th.

About 20 people were present. The Toronto Board of Education, Gibson House, Montgomerys Inn, The Toronto Historical Board, The Ontario Heritage Society, North York Historical Board, and the York Pioneers were represented. Short reports were given by everyone.

They handed out brochures and program flyers, and Jane reported on the various activities in The Grange, and invited everyone to come to the Annual Autumn Lecture and our Luncheon/Lectures.

This group meets every three months, and the February meeting will be held in The Grange.

Excerpt from a letter from Ann Mills,
President of the Volunteer Committee
from 1986-1988 June, 1988.

I have so enjoyed my association with your Committee and particularly your Executive. They are a terrific group who accomplish a great deal. The Grange has never looked better and its visibility seems to be increasing every year - soon you'll be turning them away.

The reception last evening for Joe Rotman was another fine example of the 'cooks' creativity and hard work. I enjoyed every mouthful.

THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

Visitors with Connections

While we enjoy all our visitors, nothing makes the house and its past seem more alive than when a DESCENDANT arrives at the door.

You read in the last Grange Newsletter of the Tuesday visit by Prue Iremonger, Harriette Boulton Smith's great, great niece from New Zealand. She came originally on the previous Saturday, and while we were in the midst of welcoming her, who should arrive but Bill Moure, the great, great grandson of George Berthon, the artist who painted Harriette's wedding portrait. We introduced them in the drawing room on front of the portrait - and wished that someone had a camera!

This August we had visitors from both the Boulton and Dixon families. On Saturday, August 20, Deborah Malek (nee Greenwood) and her husband, in town from France, arrived to see the ancestral home. We brought out the Boulton family tree, and she was thrilled to find her name, one of the last, was included. Mme. Malek belongs to the Bonnycastle branch.

On the following Saturday, we had the pleasure of welcoming Prue Iremonger's mother. Her daughter had regaled her with such a glowing story of her visit to The Grange and its friendly custodians that she had come to see "Aunt Hattie's house" for herself. Mrs. Iremonger said, that while Prue has Harriette's engagement ring from William Henry, (a gorgeous cluster of diamonds, incidentally) the Toronto branch of the Dixon family still has her lovely wedding veil. It is kept in a bank vault, and is brought out for every Dixon bride.

From our conversation with Mrs. Iremonger, we learned that Harriette's Boston home still stands, but has been converted into offices. She also confided that "the family had never liked Goldwin Smith".

Both visitors were delighted with The Grange poster that we gave them on their departure.

Connie Masters.

ETCETERA

"Tunkers" are mentioned in The Pathway to the Past, and a visitor asked what they were. The Librarians found the following information.

TUNKERS, also known as Dünklers, Dunkards (from Old German tunken, 'to dip') and as German Baptists, a Protestant sect so named from its distinctive baptismal rite. Originating in Germany in 1708 under Alexander Mack (1679-1735), they quickly gathered adherents in Germany, Holland and Switzerland; but persecution compelled them to emigrate to America (1719-29), where they have been settled ever since. In the 1880s the Tunkers became divided into Progressives and Conservatives ('Old Church'). They reject infant baptism, insist on total immersion, accompany the celebration of the Lord's Supper with an agape, refuse to take oaths or to bear arms, discourage litigation, and disallow statistics as savouring of pride. Since 1908 their official title has been "Church of the Brethren".

F.Y.I.

Henry John's motto as seen in the Ante-Room on the coat of arms is "NOSCE TEIPSUM" meaning "know thyself" - a different motto from D'Arcy Boulton's "Dux Vitae Ratio" on the stair window.

Jean Dodd (Wednesday)

A view of The Grange and Goldwin Smith as seen by Charles D.G. Roberts in 1888; an excerpt from Authors At Home (Ed. by J.R. and J.B. Gilder. N.Y., Cassell). This book is now in the Goldwin Smith Collection.

Goldwin Smith at "The Grange"

Beverly Street, though it lies in the heart of the city, is one of the most fashionable quarters of Toronto. About the middle of its eastern side a whole block is walled off from curious eyes by a high, blank fence, behind which rises what seems a bit of primeval forest. The trees are chiefly fir-trees, mossed with age, and sombre; and in the midst of their effectual privacy, with sunny tennis-lawns spread out before its windows, is The Grange. The entrance to the grounds is another street, Grange Road, where the fir-trees stand wide apart, and the lawns stretch down to the great gates standing always hospitably open. The house itself is an old-fashioned, wide-winged mansion of red brick, low, and ample in the eaves, its warm color toned down by the frosts of many Canadian winters to an exquisite harmony with the varying greens which surround it. The quaint, undemonstrative doorway, the heavy, dark-painted hall-door, the shining, massy knocker, and the prim side-windows, - all savor delightfully of United Empire Loyalist days. Just such fit and satisfactory architecture this as we have fair chance of finding wherever the makers of Canada came to a rest from their flight out of the angry, new-born republic. As the door opens one enters a dim, roomy hall, full of soft brown tints and suggestion of quiet, the polished floor made noiseless with Persian rugs. On the right hand open the parlors, terminated by an octagonal conservatory. The wing opposite is occupied by the dining-room and a spacious library.

The dining-room has a general tone of crimson and brown, and its walls are covered with portraits in oil of the heroes of the Commonwealth. Milton, Cromwell, Hampden, Pym, Vane, et al. - they are all there, gazing down severely upon the well-covered board. The abstemious host serenely dines beneath that Puritan scrutiny; but to me it has always seemed that a collection of the great cavaliers would look on with a sympathy more exhilarating. From here a short passage leads to the ante-room of the library, which, like the library itself, is lined to the ceiling with books. At the further end of the library is the fireplace under a heavy mantel of oak, and near it stands a massive writing-desk, of some light colored wood. A small desk, close by, is devoted to the use of the gentleman who acts as librarian and secretary. The ample windows are all on one side, facing the lawn; and the centre of the room is held by a billiard-table, which, for the most part, is piled with the latest reviews and periodicals. The master of the Grange is by no means an assiduous player, though he handles the cue with fair skill. In such a home as this, Mr. Goldwin Smith may be considered to have struck deep root into Canadian soil; and as his wife, whose bright hospitality gives the Grange its highest charm, is a Canadian woman, he has every right to regard himself as identified with Canada. In person, Mr. Smith is very tall, straight, spare, his face keen, grave, almost severe; his iron-gray hair cut close; his eyes restless, alert, piercing, but capable at times of an unexpected gentleness and sweetness; his smile so agreeable that one must the more lament its rarity. The countenance and manner are preeminently those of the critic, the investigator, the tester. As he concerns himself earnestly in all our most important public affairs, his general appearance, through the medium of the Toronto Grip, our Canadian Punch, has come to be by no means unfamiliar to the people of Canada...

Mary Ash

LIBRARY NEWS

The following books have been added to the Grange library:

Chaffer's handbook to hall marks on gold and silver plate...
5th ed., edited by C.A. Markham. London, Reeves & Turner, 1924.

Fisher, John. The world of the Forsytes. London, Secker & Warburg, 1976.

Fryer, M.B. Volunteers and redcoats, rebels and raiders:
a military history of the rebellions in Upper Canada.
Toronto, Dundurn Press, 1987.

Gates, L.F. After the rebellion: the later years of William
Lyon Mackenzie. Toronto, Dundurn Press, 1988.

Greysmith, Brenda. Wallpaper. New York, Macmillan, 1976.

Hill, Daniel G. The freedom-seekers: Blacks in early Canada.
Agincourt, Book Society of Canada, 1981.

Kilbourn, Wm. Toronto remembered: a celebration of the city.
Toronto, Stoddart, 1984.

Mika, Nick. Historic mills of Ontario... Belleville, Mika Pub.
Co., 1987.

Riendeau, Roger E. An enduring heritage: Black contributions
to early Ontario. Toronto, Dundurn Press, 1984. (Vol. Shelf)

Scourse, Nicolette. The Victorians and their flowers. London,
Croom Helm, 1983.

Spiller, Brian. Victorian public houses. New York, Arco, 1973.

THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

Library Inventory

An inventory of the books in the Grange Library was taken during the summer months.

Books which have been missing over a period of years are assumed to be lost, and cards have been withdrawn from the catalogue.

The following books were found to be missing during the most recent inventory:

Neal, Armenta, ed. Exhibits for the small museum. Nashville, AASLH, 1976.

Reibel, Daniel B. Registration methods for the small museum. Nashville, AASLH, 1978.

Cunnington, Phyllis, Costume of household servants from the Middle Ages to 1900. London, Adam & Charles Black, 1974.

Laver, James. Manners and morals in the age of optimism, 1848-1914. New York, Harper, 1966. (Lost from Volunteers' Shelf)

Mary Ash

Our Grange library has the following books referred to by Susan Burke in her lecture "Dressing for Dinner", on October 17th.

- 1) The Workwoman's Guide, by a lady, original edition, 1838, being a guide "to 19th century hats, fashion, and practical crafts".
391.0289 Wor
- 2) The Fashionable Lady in the 19th Century by Charles H. Gibbs-Smith; Victoria and Albert Museum.
391.09 Gib
- 3) The Cut of Women's 19th Century Dress, part 2; Romance and Sentiment circa 1822-39, by Eileen Collard; The Costume Society of Ontario.
746.92 Col v 2

Ruth Vanderlip

